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96-115

April 15, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CELEBRATION '96 VENDORS PREPARED TO TICKLE TASTEBUDS

CHARLESTON -- Everything from steak to egg rolls will be served by food vendors at Eastern Illinois University's annual "Celebration: A Festival of the Arts" April 26-28.

The event, now in its 19th year, features 16 vendors, slightly more than previous years. The food booths will be located in the Seventh Street parking lot between Blair Hall and the Steam Plant.

David Hobbs, food coordinator for Celebration, said the variety of food is what makes it fun for festival-goers.

"More people would be apt to go to the booths if there is a large selection of different items," said Hobbs, who is entering his second year as food coordinator.

"We are looking to appeal to as many people as we can by offering an ethnic variety of as many kinds of food as we can."

Food being sold by vendors includes French cuisine from The French Embassy in Arcola, chinese, prime rib sandwiches, pizza and ice cream.

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Dan Crews, festival coordinator, said Celebration tries to offer "the unique and the different" when it comes to food. "That has always been the goal for us," Crews said. "Almost every festival uses the usual fair food, and I think everyone has been corn dogged-out."

Although the food may be unique, the vendors are not. Almost 50 percent of this year's vendors attended Celebration last year. Hobbs said the names of possible food vendors are kept on a list and sent applications to attend Celebration.

"We also get letters from other vendors who are also interested (in coming to Celebration)," Hobbs said. "We get a menu describing their items and photos of their booth before they can attend."

Celebration is an annual event featuring a variety of entertainment, arts and crafts and demonstrations. Held on Eastern's campus, it gives students and area residents the opportunity to experience different kinds of both visual and musical art in a casual setting.

For more information, contact the Celebration Office at (217) 581-2113.